REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the features of the present invention whereby a lenticular lens screen is formed from at least two lenticular lens sheet members having respective edges which are bonded together at a junction plane, and whereby the transmissive diffusion screen (that diffuses luminous fluxes which have passed through the lenticular lens screen to expand a viewing angle) is arranged on an observer side of the lenticular lens screen. With this structure, luminous fluxes refracted or reflected by the junction plane are diffused over a range so that almost no line caused by the junction plane is observed by an observer, even though the lenticular lens screen is formed from at least two lenticular lens sheet members bonded together. (See the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 9, line 23 to page 10, line 4.)

In addition, new claims 9 and 10 have been added to recite the structural features of the transmissive diffusion screen disclosed at page 9, lines 16-22 and page 10, lines 5-10, respectively.

Still further, new claim 11 has been added to recite a structure corresponding to the structure recited in claim 1 with respect to a holographic screen, as supported by the disclosure

in the specification at page 16, line 21 to page 17, line 7, and new claims 12-13 have been added to recite the features of new claims 9-10 depending from new claim 11.

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered under 37 CFR 1.116.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-3 and 5-6 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by newly cited USP 5,206,761 ("Ogino"), and claims 4, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Ogino in view of either USP 5,186,780 ("Sakunaga et al") or USP 5,121,252 ("Okada"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to amended claim 1 and new claims 9-13.

As recognized by the Examiner, Ogino discloses a structure wherein a lenticular lens screen is formed from at least two lenticular lens sheet members bonded together.

It is respectfully submitted, however, that Ogino does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the use of a transmissive diffusion screen which is arranged on an observer side of the lenticular lens screen, as according to the structure of the claimed present invention as recited in claim 1. Instead, Ogino merely discloses a structure comprising a lenticular sheet 3 with two Fresnel sheets 1 and 2 arranged on the projector side of an optical path 8 of luminous fluxes projected from the projector

(with the observer observing from the side of the lenticular sheet 3 as shown in Fig. 3). And although Ogino discloses that the lenticular sheet 3 may contain a light diffusing material (see column 1, lines 38-41), Ogino does not disclose, teach or suggest providing a transmissive diffusion screen arranged on an observer side of the lenticular lens screen, as according to the structure of the claimed present invention as recited in claim 1.

As pointed out above (and in the Remarks submitted with the Amendment filed June 6, 2002), the structure of the present invention enables luminous fluxes refracted or reflected by the junction plane of the at least two lenticular lens sheet members forming the lenticular lens screen to be diffused over a range so that almost no line caused by the junction plane is observed by an observer. As a result, the claimed present invention can provide a rear projection type projector having a large-sized screen which is manufacturable at a low cost and which has large display area.

It is respectfully submitted that Ogino simply does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the above described structural features and advantageous effects of the present invention as recited in claim 1. And it is therefore respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Ogino under 35 USC 102.

In addition, it is noted that Sakunaga et al and Okada have merely been cited for the disclosure of an off center junction and the junction being at a trough. These references, however,

clearly also do not disclose, teach or suggest the above described structural features and advantageous effects of the claimed present invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that even if Sakunaga et al and Okada were combinable with Ogino in the manner suggested by the Examiner, the structure of the present invention as recited in claim 1 and new claims 9-10 would still not be achieved or rendered obvious.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in claim 1 and claims 9-10 depending therefrom patentably distinguishes over all of the cited references, taken singly or in any combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

Still further, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 11-13 also patentably distinguish over the cited references for the same reasons described above with respect to corresponding claim 1 and new claims 9-10.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Second Amended) A screen for a rear projection type projector, comprising:

a [main] lenticular lens screen formed from at least two [screen] lenticular lens sheet members having respective edges which are bonded together at a junction plane; and

a transmissive diffusion screen [arranged behind the main screen on an optical path of] that diffuses luminous fluxes [projected from a projector] which have passed through the lenticular lens screen to expand a viewing angle;

wherein said transmissive diffusion screen is arranged on an observer side of the lenticular lens screen.